1. A mining hopper for the transport of material comprising:

at least one steel portion;

at least one rubber portion;

wherein said at least one rubber portion comprises a substantially planar mat varying in thickness over its length.

2. The mining hopper of claim 1 wherein said at least one steel portion comprises a bottom floor, a plurality of side walls and a front wall.

3. The mining hopper of claim 2 wherein said at least one steel portion further comprises a visor portion.

4. The mining hopper of claim 2 wherein said rubber portion further comprises at least one additional planar mat associated with each of said side walls and said front wall.

5. The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a fastening system for supporting said substantially planar mat.

6. The mining hopper of claim 5 wherein said fastening system comprises a plurality of elastomeric ropes which are located in parallel with one another.

7. The mining hopper of claim 6 wherein said fastening system further comprises at least one clamp and one bolt associated with each said elastomeric rope for adjusting the tension on each of said elastomeric ropes.

8. The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a support frame, said support frame comprising a plurality of square-shaped longitudinal beams and a plurality of square-shaped transverse beams, said transverse beams being perpendicular to said longitudinal beams.

9. The mining hopper of claim 1 wherein said steel portion comprises a front wall and a plurality of side walls.

10. The mining hopper of claim 9 wherein said front wall has a rectangular shape and a hexagonal hyperbolic base.

11. The mining hopper of claim 9 wherein said side walls have a trapezoidal shape.

12. The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a front wall and wherein the thickness of said planar mat varies such that said planar mat is thinner in an area which is closest to said front wall.

13. The mining hopper of claim 6 wherein said elastomeric ropes comprise polyester fibers covered with rubber.

14. The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising at least one removable and adjustable rubber block fastened to said steel portion.

15. A mining hopper for the transport of rock and ores comprising:

a steel portion;

a portion formed from polymers;

wherein said portion formed from polymers comprises the body of said mining hopper said body bearing the impact and wear resulting from the transport of said rocks and ores and wherein said steel portion functions to fasten and support said portion formed from polymers.

16. The mining hopper of claim 15 comprising a bottom portion, a plurality of side walls, a front section, and a visor and wherein said bottom portion, said plurality of side walls, said front section and said visor are formed from polymers.

17. The mining hopper of claim 15 comprising a bottom portion, a plurality of side walls, a front section, and a visor and wherein said bottom portion, said plurality of side walls, said front section and said visor are formed from a mixture of polymers and steel.

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